

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 /089 W

----- 028419

R 271458Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8494

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL GOTEBOG UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 4669

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS, US, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH REACTION TO PANMUNJOM INCIDENT

REF: (Q) STATE 211862, (2) STOCKHOM 4524, (3) STOCKHOLM 4565

1. SWEDISH REACTION TO THE PANMUNJOM INCIDENT HAS BEEN SURPRISINGLY MUTED. THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC STATEMENT BY ANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL NOR IS THERE LIKELY TO BE.

2. UNSOLICITED COMMENTS OF WORKING LEVEL MFA OFFICIALS THUS FAR REVEAL ASSUMPTION THAT PANMUNJOM INCIDENT WAS CALCULATED NORTH KOREAN MOVE IN PART TO DRAMATIZE KOREAN ISSUE FOR BENEFIT PARTICIPANTS IN COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AND TO INFLUENCE LANGUAGE OF COLOMBO RESOLUTION ON KOREA.

3. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR
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KIL JAE GYONG CALLED ON MFA POLITICAL DIVISION CHIEF

LEIF LEIFLAND AUGUST 24 TO OUTLINE NORTH KOREAN VERSION OF INCIDENT. ACCORDING TO MFA SOURCE, LEIFLAND TOLD KIL THAT GOS WAS ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH BOTH AMERICAN AND NORTH KOREAN ACCOUNTS AND EXPRESSED SWEDISH HOPE THAT TENSIONS WOULD EASE QUICKLY TO PERMIT SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF CONTINUING DIFFERENCES IN ZONE.

4. WHILE MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE KILLINGS AND THEIR AFTERMATH HAS BEEN FAIRLY HEAVY, EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS BEEN SPARSE. THE INCIDENT AND SUBSEQUENT EVENTS HAVE BEEN COVERED IN GENERALLY OBJECTIVE FASHION, ALONG WITH PHOTOGRAPHS, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE OFFICERS BEING BEATEN. THE NORTH KOREAN VERSION HAS ALSO BEEN REPORTED, ALONG WITH THE NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO SWEDEN'S COMMENTS DEALING WITH "PROVOCATIONS" BY THE "AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS."

5. IN THE ONLY MAJOR EDITORIAL DEALING WITH THE KILLINGS, THE STOCKHOLM MORNING DAILY SVENSKA DAGBLADET (CONSERVATIVE) DEVOTED THE BULK OF AN EDITORIAL AUGUST 23 TO CRITICISM OF KIM IL SUNG AND CONCLUDED WITH THE STRONG STATEMENT THAT "THE AMERICAN PRESENCE STILL IS INDISPENSABLE AS A GUARANTEE AGAINST AN ARMED NORTH KOREAN ATTACK AGAINST THE...SOUTH." (REF E).

6. EMBASSY BELIEVES INCIDENT WILL NOT INFLUENCE GOS POSITION ON KOREAN ISSUE IN UNGA (WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED UPON) AND THAT SWEDISH VOTING THIS YEAR MAY WELL BE REPEAT OF 1975 RECORD, I.E., SUPPORT OF FRIENDLY RESOLUTION AND ABSTENTION ON HOSTILE.
SMITH

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NNN

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